

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 031116
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 INSE-00 VO-03 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:GC
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
-----110011Z 000661 /70

P R 102326Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031116

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 29544

1. APPROXIMATELY 50-75 MEMBERS OF A GROUP CALLED THE SIERRA LEONE NATIONALS ACTION COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AT ABOUT 11:30 A.M. EST ON FEBRUARY 10 TO PROTEST EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE. THE COMMITTEE, WHOSE HEAD OFFICE IS LISTED AS BEING IN NEW RACHAEL, N.Y.,(SIC),SUB OFFICES IN LANGLEY PARK, MD., AND BOSTON, CARRIED PLACARDS AND CHANTED SLOGANS FOR ABOUT 15-30 MINUTES BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEXT STOPS WHICH WERE TO INCLUDE IBRD, SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, AND A HAZILY DESCRIBED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 031116

MUSIC HALL ON V STREET WHERE IT WOULD HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE. THREE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES HEADED BY A MR. SULAIMAN SISAY PRESENTED THE SL DESK OFFICER WITH A COPY OF THEIR PETITION AND PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE (POUCHED SEPARATELY). APPROVAL TO PARADE WAS OBTAINED BY ARUMA SAHED BANGURAH.

2. THE PETITION, WHICH DESCRIBES ITSELF AS REPRESENTING
SIERRA LEONEANS LIVING IN MANY PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES

AND CANADA, PROTESTS STEVENS "CORRUPT AND UNPOPULAR RULE,"
CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF INNOCENT STUDENTS, AND CALLS FOR
THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF "ALL 150" STUDENTS NOW BEING
DETAINED FOR INTERROGATION. THE PETITION FURTHER
CATALOGUES 22 CHARGES AGAINST STEVENS DATING BACK TO EVENTS
IN 1961. IT STATES THE COMMITTEE HAS TRIED STEVENS IN
THE "COURT OF DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION," FOUND HIM GUILTY,
AND "SENTENCED" HIM TO REMOVAL FROM OFFICE WITH NO
GRATUITIES, NO PRIVILEGES AND NO IMMUNITIES. THE PRESS
RELEASE IS A SHORTER DOCUMENT ALONG THE SAME LINES WHICH
USES SUCH ADJECTIVES AS BRUTAL, CORRUPT, MISCHIEVOUS,
INSENSITIVE (MORALLY), AND RUTHLESS TO DESCRIBE STEVENS
AND HIS ACTIVITIES.

3. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS NON-VIOLENT AND THE STUDENTS
BEHAVED THEMSELVES WELL AT THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION
TO THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE PETITION AND PRESS RELEASE
DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE STUDENTS ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SIERRA LEONE, COMPLAINED
ABOUT THE SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND ITS
LACK OF RAPPORT WITH ITS CONSTITUENTS, AND ASKED THAT NO
REPRISALS BE MADE BY THE INS AS A RESULT OF THE DEMONSTR-
ATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THE THIRD POINT THEY WERE INFORMED
THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE ASSUMING THE DEMONSTRATION
REMAINED NON-VIOLENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 031116

4. SEPARATE ITEM: THE SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
HAS CEASED ISSUING VISAS TO SIERRA LEONE ON ORDERS FROM
FREETOWN. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE NOW IF AN
EXCEPTION CAN BE MADE FOR ED HOLMES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
USIA'S AFRICA BUREAU.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE031116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN:GC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0930
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770252/aaaabunz.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e4274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 29544
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3350821
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHING- TON
TAGS: PORS, SL, US
To: FREETOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e4274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009